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(54) Multi-component telepresence system and method

(57) The present invention provides systems and methods for performing robotics assisted surgical procedures on a patient. In particular, a three component surgical system (2) is provided that includes a non-sterile drive and control component (40), a sterilized end effector or surgical tool (20), and an intermediate connector component (24) that includes mechanical elements for coupling the surgical tool (20) with the drive and control component (40), and for transferring motion and electrical signals therebetween. The drive and control component (40) is shielded from the sterile surgical site, the surgical tool (20) is sterilized and disposable and the intermediate connector (24) is sterilized and reusable. In this manner, the intermediate connector (24) can be sterilized after a surgical procedure without damaging the motors (170) or electrical connections within the drive and control component (40) of the robotics system.

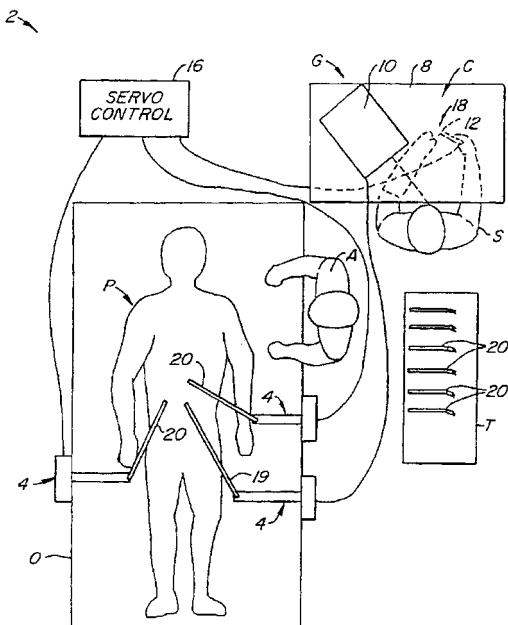


FIG. 1.



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
 EP 10 18 2922

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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A	WO 94/26167 A1 (STANFORD RES INST INT [US]) 24 November 1994 (1994-11-24) * page 11, line 36 - page 12, line 9; figure 5 *	1-12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61B B25J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	The Hague	31 January 2013	Mayer-Martenson, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS <p> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document </p> <p> T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </p>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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